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PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF WORKINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1951

BY

JAMES L. HUNTER,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Workington,
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MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Chairman:
Councillor J. R. Davis
(Workington Borough).

Councillor C. Baird (Workington Borough).

,, E. Barraclough (Workington Borough).

,, A. V. Cattrell (Workington Borough).

,, J. Doggart (Cockermouth R.D.C.).

,, A. Hall (Cockermouth R.D.C.).

,, J. C. Moore (Workington Borough).

Alderman J. Poole (Workington Borough).

Councillor W. Roe (Ennerdale R.D.C.).

Alderman S. Walker (Workington Borough).

Clerk to the Authority: John R. Cockfield.

Port Medical Officer:
James L. Hunter, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Port Medical Officer:
R. E. Fletcher, M.B., Ch.B.

Port Health Inspector: R. James.

Assistant Port Health Inspector: C. E. Pearson.

Town Hall,

Workington,

February, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Workington Port Health Authority.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1951, which has been prepared in accordance with Memorandum 302/SA of the Ministry of Health, dated December, 1946.

1. *Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year.*

		NUMBER	TONNAGE	No Inspected. By the Port Medical Officer	No Inspected. By the Port Health Inspector	No. Reported to be Defective.	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	No. of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to the Ministry of Transport Surveyors.	No. of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
Foreign	Steamers ...	133	180492	16	133	24	22	...	4
	Motor ...	11	19924	1	11	1	...	...	...
	Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign		144	200416	17	144	25	22	...	4
Coastwise	Steamers ...	216	50968	...	121	14	12	...	...
	Motor ..	85	20386	...	53	...	...	...	...
	Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise ...		301	71354	...	174	14	12	...	...
Total Foreign and Coastwise		445	271770	17	318	39	34		4

2. *Character of Trade of Port.*

(*a*) *There was no passenger traffic during the year.*

(*b*) *Cargo Traffic*:

The chief import was again iron ore. Other imports included bricks, ganister, coal duff and ingot moulds. Exports included pitch, tar, coal, coke breeze, rails, rail chairs, billets, pig iron and sleepers.

(*c*) *Foreign Ports from which vessels arrived*:

India—Calcutta, Vizagapatam.
Netherlands—Yuimden.
North Africa—Algiers, Bona, Melilla, Port Romaine, La Goulette, Susa.
Norway—Narvik.
Spain—Almeria, Bilbao, Hornillo.
Sweden—Oxelosund.
West Africa—Pepel, Freetown, Takoradi.

3. *Water Supply.*

The Port and ships are supplied with water from Crummock Lake, being the same as supplied to the Borough of Workington. The character of the water is 1.4 degrees of hardness and it is of exceptional purity, proved by chemical and bacteriological examination several times during the year. There are no water boats and vessels are supplied from hydrants around the dock, there being sixteen such hydrants.

Enquiries are made from all Masters as to the source of existing supplies. During the year samples of water from three vessels were submitted for examination and proved satisfactory.

Notices were given to the Masters of three vessels to clean out water storage tanks.

4. *Port Health Regulations*, 1933 *and* 1945.

The Regulations have continued to work satisfactorily during the year.

(*a*) *Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health*:

The Pilots are supplied with Declarations of Health and a form is given to the Master of each vessel by the Pilot boarding off the Port prior to docking.

(*b*) *Boarding of vessels on arrival*:

Every foreign-going vessel is boarded by an Official of the Port Health Authority immediately on docking when the completed Declaration of Health is received.

(*c*) *Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring attention*:

Vessels requiring special attention are boarded off the Port. Notification is usually received from the Dock Office or Pilots.

(*d*) *Mooring Stations designated under Article* 10:

(i) Under Article 10 (2).
Workington Roads, off entrance to Port.

(ii) Under Article 10 (1).
(a) Breasted off the Quay at the place of mooring, discharge or loading.
(b) The allotted berth in the Prince of Wales Dock.

These mooring stations were agreed to by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise subject to the following understanding: that the mooring place referred to at (d) (i) is for ships "infected" or "suspected", and that at (d) (iia) is for ships unhealthy on account of typhus fever or smallpox, and that at (d) (iib) for all other unhealthy ships.

(*e*) *Standing Exemptions from the provisions of Article* 14:

Exemptions have been granted in respect of ships with the following infectious diseases on board:—Acute Polio-Encephalitis, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Chicken Pox, Continued Fever, Diphtheria, Dysentery, Epidemic Infantile Paralysis, Erysipelas, German Measles, Malaria, Membranous Croup, Pneumonia, Relapsing Fever, Scarlet Fever, Trench Fever, Tuberculosis and Typhoid Fever, provided that the answers in the Declaration of Health are in the negative and the ship has not called at an infected port or seaboard; and of vessels otherwise clean arriving from ports in areas listed under Article 11.

(*f*) *Restrictions on boarding or leaving ships*:

Article 16 of the Regulations continues to operate smoothly. Excepting a Pilot and Customs Officer, no person is allowed to board or leave a vessel from a foreign port until it is free from control under these Regulations.

(*g*) *Other facilities*:

No special premises or waiting rooms are provided for medical examinations, which are usually carried out on the vessel. The Port Health Authority provides facities for cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

The Authority have no special premises for the temporary accommodation of persons. When the occasion arises limited accommodation is available at the Seamen's Institute.

Hospital accommodation is available for infectious and non-infectious diseases, and ambulances are available for transport. Infectious diseases contacts are kept under daily supervision. Information is obtained of any persons leaving ships and forwarded to other areas.

Bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out by Dr. J. S. Faulds, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.

(*h*) *Venereal Diseases.*

Treatment Clinics are situated at Carlisle and Whitehaven, distances of 30 and 8 miles away. Enquiries are made on all vessels and printed cards are issued showing where free confidential treatment can be obtained. Seamen not wishing to travel can visit a specially appointed Medical Practitioner at Workington for free confidential treatment.

(*i*) *Internment of Dead*:

Shipping Agents and Masters have always fully co-operated when the occasions arose, and on one occasion during the year the business was carried out satisfactorily. Mortuary accommodation is available.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS LANDED FROM VESSELS.

Diseases.	Number of Cases during the year. Passengers.	Crew.	No. of Vessels. Concerned.	Average Number of Cases for previous five years.
Dysentery	—	1	1	0.2
Malaria	—	2	2	0.4
Measles	—	1	1	—
Influenza	—	1	1	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	0.2
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	0.2
Pneumonia	—	1	—	0.2

The Master of one vessel reported landing a sick seaman at Lisbon with duodenal ulcer.

Another foreign-going vessel brought the body of the 2nd Engineer. The man had died a few hours before docking. A post-mortem examination revealed that death was due to pneumonia.

The following thirty-one cases of sickness or injury were reported on twenty-four vessels and medical attention was received:—Venereal Diseases 24 cases, Duodenal Ulcer 1 case, Septic Hand 1 case, Haemorrhoids 1 case, Scalds 1 case, Conjunctivitis 1 case, Pyorrhoea 1 case, Leg Injury 1 case.

One notice was issued in pursuance of the Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations.

An amendment to the Port Health Regulations became operative on the 1st March, 1951, insofar as Port Health Authorities need not require Declarations of Health when vessels arrive in this Country from a port on the Mediterranean or Atlantic coasts of France, or from a port between the River Elbe and Brest, if during the voyage vessels have not called at a port outside France, Belgium or Holland.

5. *Measures against Rodents.*

Vessels entering the Port are examined for the presence of rats, particular attention being paid to vessels which may come from plague infected ports. Trapping and baiting are carried out, and rat guards are available for mooring ropes. Risk of serious infestation is considerably minimised by the nature of cargoes imported and exported. Periodical inspections are also made of the harbour, buildings, breakwater and foreshore for the presence of rats.

The Port is one of the Approved Ports by the Ministry of Health for the issue of Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates in accordance with Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. When Deratisation Certificates are issued, Hydrocyanic Acid Gas fumigation is carried out.

On the 1st October, 1951, the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951, became operative. This Order controlled rodent and insect infes-

tations on "Coastwise" shipping. The legislation affecting foreign-going vessels remains unaltered.

For the first time coastwise vessels must be in possession of a Rodent Control Certificate which are valid for a period of four months. Eleven Certificates were issued by this Authority following a satisfactory examination of the vessels.

Rats destroyed during the Year.

(1) *On Vessels.*

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct	Nov.	Dec	Total
Black									5	3	27	11	46
Brown													
Species not recorded ...													
Examined									1	1	2	1	5
Infected with Plague ...													

(2) *In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.*

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Black													
Brown		4							1				5
Species not recorded ...													
Examined		1							1				2
Infected with Plague													

For the first eight months of the year systematic inspections, trapping and baiting failed to reveal evidence of rats on vessels, but the arrival of several heavily infested ships in the last four months ended expectations of a negative year.

Rat guards were placed on mooring ropes and every precaution was taken to prevent rodents making their way ashore. Fumigation was not carried out as the vessels were proceeding to dry dock for overhaul following discharging.

The provision storeroom on another vessel was infested and rat proofing was carried out before the vessel sailed. A coastwise vessel was also found heavily infested due chiefly to accumulations of junk which afforded good harbourage for rats. Notice was given to carry out immediate works.

In all cases the Authorities at the next port of call were notified of the circumstances.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the Year.

Net Tonnage	Number of Ships	Number of Deratisation Certificates Issued					No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
		After fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.	Total		
		HCN.	Sulphur	HCN. & Sulphur				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ships up to 300 tons	3						3	3
,, from 301 tons to 1,000 tons ...	1						1	1
,, from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons...	10	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
,, from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons...								
,, over 10,000								
Total ...	14	...	...	...	...	...	14	14

The fees received for issuing these Certificates amounted to £35-10-0.

6. *Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.*

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	231	—	7	31
Other Nations ...	87	—	5	8
	318	—	12	39

During the year 39 informal or verbal notices were served dealing with 51 nuisances, viz.:—

Defective sanitary fittings	4
Dirty sanitary conveniences	14
Defective wash-hand basins	1
Defective galley ventilators	2
Defective ports and port glasses	3
Defective steam pipes	2
Defective and choked scuppers	7
Dirty mattresses, etc.	2
Dirty and/or verminous quarters	10
Dirty pantries and storerooms	3
Clean water tanks	3

The number of vessels entering the Port during the year increased by 27. The following were the nationalities:—

British	342
Dutch	49
Swedish	19
Norwegian	11
Panamanian	11
Danish	6
Spanish	3
Italian	2
French	1
German	1

7. *Food Inspection.*

No foodstuffs have been imported or exported during the year.

8. *General.*

The foreshore under the jurisdiction of the Authority has been reguarly inspected.

I must record my appreciation to the staff for their continued co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. HUNTER,

Port Medical Officer.

THE WORKINGTON STAR LIMITED.